



Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

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TESTIMONY TO THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING on Monday, March 7, 2022

The Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC) is pleased to submit testimony in support of **Raised House Bill No. 5291 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR BIKEWAYS, GREENWAYS AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS.**

CACIWC has long supported efforts to preserve important habitats in Connecticut. Our member conservation commissions endeavor to identify, index, and preserve critical habitats within their municipalities while encouraging development of recreational trails to improve access and allow residents to enjoy the natural beauty of these parcels.

Unfortunately, despite these efforts, many important parcels have become more fragmented over time. This trend has resulted in fewer large regional forested parcels and essential greenways, which decreases their value as sustaining habitats for various wildlife species. These preserved open space greenway tracts not only benefit wildlife, but the addition of recreational trails will also enhance the property values of adjacent residential areas.

Many important greenway and trail development proposals have, unfortunately, not been completed due to insufficient funds. CACIWC is pleased to lend its support to the efforts of the CGA Environment Committee to authorize these additional greatly needed bond funds to help connect the varied and important open space lands within our state. In doing so, you will not only protect important habitats, but enhance and help preserve the character of local municipalities throughout the State of Connecticut.

Alan J. Siniscalchi, President,
Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.
(CACIWC)

CACIWC is a non-profit organization working to protect Connecticut's wetlands, watercourses, and other natural resources through support and education of the 2000+ volunteers and staff that carry out the responsibilities of Connecticut's Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Commissions. CACIWC, representing its member commissions, works with municipalities and environmental groups to promote public support for the judicious management and conservation of Connecticut's natural resources. For additional information contact Alan J. Siniscalchi, President at board@caciwc.org or visit www.caciwc.org.